

ARMAGEDDON OF THE SCRIPTURES

Starling Presentation of Coming Events.

PASTOR RUSSELL'S VIEWS.

Churches of All Denominations and the Civil Powers of Earth Are About to Unite in Common Cause—Powerful Influence Preparing for the Battle of Armageddon—A Reign of Anarchy Will Be the Result of the Warfare Until The Messiah Takes Control.



Brooklyn, N. Y., Nov. 13.—The Brooklyn Academy of Music was crowded to the limit today to hear Pastor Russell's discourse on the "Battle of Armageddon." His text was: "He gathered them together unto a place called in the Hebrew tongue Armageddon." (Revelation xvi, 16.) The speaker said: Armageddon in the Hebrew signifies the "Hill of Megiddo," or Mount of Destruction. It was famous as a battlefield in Old Testament times.

The Lord has seen fit to associate the name Armageddon, with the great controversy between Truth and Error, right and wrong, God and Mammon, with which this age will close, perish, and the New Age of Messiah's glory be ushered in. He has purposely used highly symbolical figures of speech in the last book of the Bible, evidently with a view to hiding certain important truths until the due time for their revelation. But even in the due time, the Bible assures us, "None of the wicked shall understand" (Daniel xii, 9, 10)—none who are out of heart harmony with God—but only the wise of His people—the "wise virgin" class of the Master's parable.

I have long avoided presentation of my understanding of our text and its context. I take it up now by request and because I believe it is due time to be understood. I disclaim any special inspiration. In some particulars my views agree with those of other Bible students, and in other respects they disagree. Each hearer must use his own judgment, do his own Bible study, and reach his own conclusions.

Kindly remember that I am not responsible for the figures of speech used by the Lord. My interpretations do indeed constitute a terrible arraignment of institutions which we have all revered and which embrace good people, of good words and good works. God's saintly people in these various institutions, being comparatively few, are ignored when systems as a whole are dealt with in prophecy.

The Dragon, Beast, False Prophet. Our context tells us that three impure spirits (teachings) will go forth from the mouths of the Dragon, the Beast and the False Prophet, and these three will be in accord, and symbolically the doctrines are represented by "frogs." These three doctrines are to have a mighty influence throughout the civilized earth. They are to gather the kings and their armies to the great Battle of Armageddon.

The ecclesiastical kings and princes, and their retainers of clergy and faithful adherents, will be gathered in solid phalanx—Protestant and Catholic. The kings and captains of industry, and as many as can be influenced by them, will be gathered to the same side. The political kings and princes, with all their henchmen and retainers, will follow in line on the same side. The financial kings and merchant princes, and all whom they can influence by the most gigantic power ever yet exercised in the world, will join the same side, according to this prophecy.

These "doctrines of demons," represented by the "frogs," will lead many noble people in this great army to assume an attitude quite contrary to their preference. For a time the wheels of liberty and progress will be turned backward and medieval restraints will be considered necessary for self-preservation—for the maintenance of the present order of things.

In giving this interpretation, it is necessary for us to indicate what is symbolized by the Dragon, the Beast, and the False Prophet. Bible students of nearly all denominations agree with us that the "Dragon" of Revelation represents the purely Civil Power. Protestant interpreters generally agree that the "Beast like a leopard" (Revelation xiii, 2) represents the Papacy. But fewer still, we fear, will be ready to support our view that Protestantism is the "Image of the Beast" (Revelation xiii, 15) in our context given another name, "The False Prophet." We urge no one to accept our interpretation, nor shall we think hard of any who refuse it. We will neither slander nor otherwise injure them now, nor threaten them with eternal torture. They have the same right to their views that I have, and the same right to make them known to others. And I, for one, will be very glad to consider any thing which opponents may set forth as their interpretations of our text.

"Unclean Spirits Like Frogs." The symbolisms of Scripture, rightly understood, are always forceful. When the Holy Spirit used a "frog" to symbolically represent certain

doctrines or teachings, we may be sure the true application will fit well. A frog has a sage look, a wise look. It swells itself up in an apparent endeavor to impress the beholder. Its great mouth well represents its chief power, used to croak.

Applying these symbols, we learn that an evil spirit, influence, teaching, will come from the Protestant churches federated, from the Church of Rome, and from the Civil authorities, all in full agreement. The spirit of all will be boastful; an air of superior wisdom and knowledge will be proudly assumed—all will croak in harmony. All will tell of dire results that would follow, involving the interests of both the present and the future life, if their counsel be not followed. However conflicting the creeds, the differences will be ignored in the general proposition that nothing ancient must be disturbed, or looked into, or repudiated.

The Divine authority of the Church, and the Divine right of kings, aside from the Church, will not be allowed to conflict. Any persons or teachings in conflict with these boastful and unscriptural claims will be branded as everything vile, at the mouths of these "frogs" speaking from pulpits and platforms and through the religious and secular press. The nobler sentiments of some will be strangled by the philosophy of the same evil spirit which spoke through Calaphas, the high priest, respecting Jesus. As Calaphas declared it expedient to commit a crime in violation of justice, human and Divine, to be rid of Jesus and His teachings, so this "frog" spirit will approve of every violation of principle necessary to their self-protection.

The croaking of these "frog" spirits or doctrines will gather the kings and princes, financial, political, religious and industrial into one great army. The spirit of fear, inspired by the croakings of these "frogs," will scourge the passions of otherwise good and reasonable men to fury, desperation. In their blind following of these evil spirits, evil doctrines, they will be ready to sacrifice life and everything on the altar of what they mistakenly suppose is justice, truth and righteousness, under a Divine arrangement.

For a brief time, as we understand the Scriptures, these combined forces of Armageddon will triumph. Free speech, free mails, and other liberties which have come to be the very breath of the masses in our day, will be ruthlessly shut off under the plea of necessity, the glory of God, the commands of the Church, etc. All will seem to be serene, until the great social explosion in our context described as the "great Earthquake." An "earthquake," in symbolic language, signifies social revolution, and the declaration of the context is that none like unto it ever before occurred. (Revelation xvi, 18, 19.) Jesus described it as a time of trouble such as never was since there was a nation.—Matthew xxiv, 21.

The Lord Will Gather Them.

The false, frog-like teachings will gather together into one host the great, the rich, the wise, the learned and the kings of the earth, to battle. At this juncture Divine Power will step forward, and our text tells us that HE shall gather the marshaled hosts to Armageddon—to the Mountain of Destruction. The very thing which they sought to avert by their union, federation, etc., will be the very thing they will hasten. Other Scriptures tell us that God will be represented by the Great Messiah, and that He will be on the side of the masses. Thus we read in Daniel xii, 1: "At that time shall Michael [the Godlike One—Messiah] stand up"—assume authority. He will take possession of His Kingdom in a manner little looked for by many of those who erroneously have been claiming that they were His Kingdom, and authorized by Him to reign in His name and in His stead.

Jesus declared, "His servants ye are unto whom ye render service." Some may be rendering service to Satan and to error, who claim to be rendering service to God and to righteousness; and some of these may be serving ignorantly, as did Saul of Tarsus, who "vexed thought that he did God a service" in persecuting the Church. The same principle holds true reversely. As an earthly king does not hold himself responsible for the moral character of each soldier who fights in his battles, so the Lord does not vouch for the moral character of all who will enlist and fight on His side of any question. "His servants they are to whom they render service," whatever the motive or object prompting them.

The same principles will apply in the coming Battle of Armageddon. God's side of that battle will be the people's side, and the very nondescript host, the people, will be pitted at the beginning of the battle. Anarchists, Socialists, and hot-headed radicals of every school of reason and unreason, will be in the forefront of that battle. The majority of the poor and the middle class prefer peace at almost any price. A comparatively small number, God's consecrated people, will at heart be longing for Messiah's Kingdom. These will bide the Lord's time and wait patiently for it; they will be of good courage, knowing the outcome outlined in the "more sure word of prophecy," to which they have done well to take heed, "as unto a light shining in a dark place until the Day dawn."—1 Peter i, 19.

The masses will be restless of their restraints, but will be conscious of their own weakness as compared to the kings and princes, financial, religious and political, which will then hold sway. Besides, the masses have no sympathy with anarchy. They realize truly that the worst form of government is better than none. The masses will seek relief through the ballot and peaceful re-adjustment of earth's affairs for the elimination of evil, for

the placing of monopolies and utilities and the supplies of nature in the hands of the people for the public good. The crisis will be reached when the hitherto upholders of law shall become violators of the law and resistors of the will of the majority as expressed by the ballot. Fear for the future will lead the well-meaning masses to desperation; and anarchy will result when Socialism fails.

The Cloud's Silver Lining. Horrible would be this outlook for the future did we not have the infallible Word of God assuring us of a glorious outcome! Divine Wisdom has withheld until our day the great knowledge and skill which is at the same time breeding millionaires and discontents. Had God lifted the veil a thousand years sooner, the world would have lined up for its Armageddon a thousand years sooner. But that would have been too soon for the Divine purpose, because Messiah's Kingdom is to be the great Thousand-Year-Sabbath of the world's history. God in kindness veiled our eyes until the time when the gathering to Armageddon would immediately precede Messiah's taking of Himself His great power, and beginning His reign.—Revelation xi, 17, 18.

"Send Them Strong Delusions."

St. Paul wrote prophetically of our time, that it would be one of serious trial and testing to many professing to be Christians. The reason for this he states—they received not the Truth in the love of it. (II Thessalonians ii, 10, 11.) They preferred their own erroneous theories, the Apostle explains, and therefore God will give them over to a "strong delusion," and let them believe the lie which they preferred, and let them suffer for missing the Truth which they did not love. Thus they will be in the condemned host, "fighting against God," because of their lack of love for the Truth.

It is said to say that we all as Christians have been laboring under a thorough delusion respecting God's Plan. We have claimed that Christ set up His Church in Kingdom power, and that the Church has been reigning on the earth as His representative. On the strength of this delusion, Jews and heretics have been persecuted to death as opponents to Christ's Kingdom. All the while we thoughtlessly repeated the Lord's prayer: "Thy Kingdom come; Thy will be done on earth, as in Heaven." We knew that the Redeemer said that He would come again to make us His Bride and joint-heirs; but we ignored the Scriptures. We were drunk, as the Scriptures symbolically say, "all nations were drunk" with the false doctrine. It is this false doctrine that will constitute the "frog" spirit which soon will begin to croak and to prepare for Armageddon.

The Bible presentation is that the world is a section of the universe in rebellion against Divine authority, under the captaincy of Satan and his associated fallen angels. By Divine grace Jesus has already "tasted death for every man," and the merit of that sacrifice must, eventually, grant Adam and his posterity a full, fair opportunity for the attainment of everlasting life. All who thus seek the Divine program, and are walking in the light may know something at least respecting the "times and seasons." These brethren "are not in darkness, that that day [and that battle of Armageddon] should overtake" them "as a thief"—unaware.

Armageddon Not Yet but Soon.

For forty years the Armageddon forces have been mustering for both sides of the conflict. Strikes, lockouts and riots, great and small, have been merely incidental skirmishes as the belligerent parties crossed each other's paths. Court and Army scandals in Europe, Insurance, Trust and Court scandals in America, have shaken public confidence. Dynamite plots, charged by turns on employees and on employers, have further shaken confidence and tended to make each distrustful of the other. Bitter and angry feelings on both sides are more and more manifest. The lines of battle are daily becoming more distinctly marked. Nevertheless Armageddon cannot yet be fought. Other matters intervene, according to prophecy.

Gentle times have still two years to run. The "Image of the Beast" of our context must yet receive life—power. The Image must be transformed from a mere mechanism to a living force. Protestant Federation realizes that its organization will still be futile unless it receive vitalization—unless its clergy directly or indirectly shall be recognized as possessed of apostolic ordination and authority to teach. This the prophecy indicates will come from the two horned beast, which, we believe, symbolically represents the Church of England. High-handed activities of Protestantism and Catholicism, operating in conjunction for the suppression of human liberties, await this vivifying of the Image. This may come soon, but Armageddon cannot precede it, but must follow—perhaps a year after it, according to our view of the Prophecy.

Still another thing intervenes: Although the Jews are gradually flowing into Palestine, gradually obtaining control of the land of Canaan, and although reports say that already nineteen millionaires are there, nevertheless prophecy requires an evidently larger number of wealthy Hebrews to be there before the Armageddon crisis be reached. Indeed we understand that "Jacob's trouble" in the Holy Land will come at the very close of Armageddon. Then Messiah's Kingdom will begin to be manifested. Thenceforth Israel in the land of promise will gradually rise from the ashes of the past to the grandeur of prophecy. Through its Divinely appointed princes Messiah's Kingdom, all-powerful but invisible, will begin to roll away the curse and to lift up mankind.

ARE FROM MISSOURI

Congressmen Want to Be Shown Whether or Not Wilson Will Call Extra Session.

Princeton, N. J., Nov. 11.—President-elect Wilson indicated today that he might make an announcement within a few days as to whether or not he would call an extra session of congress to revise the tariff. He had intended delaying an announcement along this line until after his return from his proposed vacation about December 16.

It was suggested to him, however, that congressmen would benefit by an early announcement in that they could arrange for accommodations at Washington for a definite period.

"I hadn't thought of that," said the governor. "Of course, I don't see any public need for announcing my decision now, except, perhaps, to quiet any speculation as to whether there is going to be early action or not."

Governor Wilson expects to name, along with the other members of his cabinet, an executive for the proposed department of labor.

"I hope there will be a new member of the cabinet for the department of labor," he said. "It will be a very important selection to make. Everybody confidently expects it and I have been told that all sides in congress favor the new department. The immediate creation of the department is, of course, dependent on the action of the approaching session of congress."

Wilson has not decided which one of the Presbyterian churches in Washington he will join. Both the new president and vice-president are Presbyterians.

"I am glad there are enough churches to go around," said the president-elect with a smile, when he was told of the rivalry that had arisen among the churches.

The procession of carriages and automobiles bringing tourists and callers down Cleveland Lane to the Wilson bungalow has made the hitherto unused road quite a thoroughfare.

The president-elect has a number of requests for speaking engagements. If he granted them all he would be speaking from now until March 4.

"I haven't given a thought to these things," he remarked.

His vacation begins the end of this week and continues until the middle of December.

GRANTS PASS VOTES SALOONS.

But Places Restrictions on the Way They Shall Be Run.

The citizens of Grants Pass voted on the question of license or no license at the recent election and as a result will install drinking emporiums soon.

A committee appointed by the council drew up the following regulations under which the saloons will be permitted to operate in that city:

Saloons to have only one entrance; that to be in front and facing the street. The front and all parts of the one room to be clean and unobstructed so that all parts can be easily seen from the street. No tables or chairs.

Licenses to be \$1,500 per year, payable three months in advance. Bonds to be \$3,000 in a good and sufficient surety company. License not transferable. Applicant must state lot and block number, also street number.

It shall be an offense for a licensee to sell to drunkards or minors, or to an intoxicated person.

To keep open after 11:30 p. m. or before 7 a. m.

To keep open Sundays.

It shall be illegal for druggists to sell liquors without a physician's prescription.

For first offense, a fine of \$200; second offense revokes the license and forfeits the remainder of the license fee.

The decision of the police or any other court of justice shall be considered sufficient, and on the second conviction the license shall be forfeited without and further action.

All applications to be accompanied by a petition of 10 per cent of the registered voters and property owners of the ward in which the application is made.

No lunch counter permitted in connection with the saloon.

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What was you sayin' awhile ago, Bill, about 'sarin' the rod'."

"What you got it in for us kids for; wasn't you a kid once yourself?"

"We get enough of the rod all right enough without you comin' along and boostin' for it."

TO BOOST LAND SHOW HURT ON WAY HOME

Trophy Offered By the Southern Pacific Company for Farmers Along Its Lines.

In addition to offering a handsome trophy for the best exhibit made by any district through which the Southern Pacific Company lines serve the people, that company is going to provide one of the very entertaining features of the Pacific Northwest Land Products Show at Portland, November 18 to 23.

It will be a parade through the city by the 1,200 clerks of the general offices of the Harriman system, all of them carrying land products of some description, headed by a band, having their own double quartet, a number of floats and half a hundred wheelbarrows decorated with products of Oregon of a size that "Farmer" Smith, expert agriculturalist of the O. W. R. & N., hopes to see grown some day. The offices of the company will be closed on the afternoon of Wednesday, the 20th, and the management will furnish all employees with admission tickets.

"Farmer" C. L. Smith will be in charge of a booth for the Harriman people and will be easily found by his friends from all portions of the state, many of whom have consulted with this wonderful soil and farm expert in times past.

The cup offered by the S. P. can be competed for by any community along its lines.

W. C. T. U. Meeting.

The ladies of the W. C. T. U. will hold a meeting in the M. E. church at 2:30 p. m., November 19. The program will follow the lines of citizenship, its duties and aims. Every woman citizen invited.

By order of president.

Gold Hill Hunters Have Runaway When Almost Home With Six Fat Buck.

Gold Hill News: An eleven-hour deer hunt, successful in that the members of the party secured six fat buck, ended in disaster on Thursday evening of last week, terminating in a runaway when the party had reached the very outskirts of the town upon their return trip. Ralph Darling, Doc Hutson, Jay Davidson and Luke Jennings were returning from a trip to Spignet prairie, their rig heavily loaded with venison, when the accident occurred just opposite the old grist mill east of this city. At this point a large stump occupies the middle of the highway, and the wagon passed directly over the obstruction, frightening the horses and throwing the occupants to the ground. Although badly shaken up and bruised, all members of the party escaped serious injury except Ralph Darling, who sustained a fracture of the left arm just above the wrist. Doc Hutson landed some 20 feet distant and was immediately followed by Luke Jennings, who alighted upon the hapless Doc with something like 200 pounds weight, plus the momentum of his flight through space; fortunately enough for Luke but to the great disadvantage of Doc, who complained that both horses and the rig had passed over his recumbent frame. The offending stump has caused several similar accidents heretofore, and its removal should be seen to without delay.

An American sewing machine company has opened eight schools in China in which the natives are taught to embroider with silk by machinery.

A Word About Printing

With printing, as most other things, that which costs the least is not usually the cheapest. In printing, that job is the cheapest which best serves its purpose, regardless of cost. The additional expense of a batch of well-printed, high-grade stationery over a lot of cheap, sloppily printed stuff is but little. That little is often returned many times over on one letter because the artistic or businesslike heading of the sheet favorably impressed the recipient as to the standing of the firm and brought the desired answer.

When you are looking for a doctor you do not shop around to see which one will come the cheapest. Then why, when your business needs a tonic, should you shop around for the cheapest business doctor? What you want is results. If you are issuing a dodger the first and last question should not be what print shop will do it the cheapest, but which one can turn out a job which will hold the attention of the largest proportion of those who glance at the handbill. The same is equally true regarding a pamphlet, a circular or a booklet.

Again, what you want is results. We believe that the Ashland Tidings can get them for you. Not only can we dress you copy up in neat, up-to-date, attractive type, but we can, if you wish, help you to array your thoughts in bright, catchy language, thus making the job more attractive and convincing.

When in need of anything in the line of printing let us help you. Our charges are reasonable and our experience of many years is at your service.

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